GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:996
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per report of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, it has been revealed that India is the top drug producer in the World as reported in The Hindustan Times dated September 19,2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government detected illicit cultivation of opium in many parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure discouragement of its production and to check smuggling thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)&(b) No Sir. However, the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 2007 released by the US government`s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in March, 2007 includes India in the list of Major Illicit Drug Producing and/or Drug Transit countries.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The steps taken by the Government include the following:

(i) Enforcement agencies in the country detect and destroy iilicit cultivation of opium crops.

(ii) Rewards are provided for detection and destruction of illicit opium crops.

(iii) NCB provides financial assistance to States to strengthen their anti-narcotics forces.

(iv) Union Home Secretary has requested the State Chief Secretaries to regularly conduct surveys for detection and destruction of illicit crops.

(v) Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.

(vi) Training programmes are conducted for law enforcement officials to upgrade their skills.